

June 3, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator, USEPA
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460



Dear Administrator McCarthy:

Earlier this month, on May 6th and 7th, 2015, the Just Moms STL group visited Washington, DC from St. Louis, MO in order to meet with their federal representatives and to attempt to meet with you as well. The Just Moms STL group planned this trip because of the growing concern of the potential impact of the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site, and more recently the underground fire in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill. This fire is not only believed to be moving toward the radioactive waste site, but is also emitting levels of sulfur dioxide that exceed 250 tons per year and making people in the community sick.

We were very disappointed that we never received a response to our initial meeting request with you. While in Washington, the Moms took the time to stand outside the EPA office with their protest signs and were able to briefly talk with your policy advisor, who came out to meet them, but they were not able to meet with you.

Our group has bipartisan support from Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill in our concern for the impacts of the West Lake Superfund Site and in our attempt to meet with you. Both Senators sent you a letter on April 17, 2015 outlining their concern and asking you to meet with their constituents when they visited in May. Neither Senator received a response.

Representatives from both Just Moms STL and CHEJ met with Mr. Stanislaus, Mr. Breen and Mr. Hague in March in order to explore ways to provide relief and possibly relocate those families affected by the fire and resulting deterioration of air quality. During this meeting, the two parties agreed to disagree on the question of relocation of families living up to one mile downwind of the burning landfill, and unfortunately we were not able to move forward with any relief or actions for these families.

Three days after this meeting we sent a follow up letter to all three gentlemen stating that Just Moms STL would be coming to Washington on the 6th and 7th and requested a meeting with you, Administrator McCarthy, to explore with you the possibility of

relocation. However, not only did this requested meeting never happen, but no one received a response from you.

Here is the systemic problem that exists at the Superfund Site. When the site was listed in 1990, the risks from the radioactive portion "Operable Unit 1" (OU1) posed the greatest threat and risks to health and the environment. In May 2008, a Record of Decision was signed for OU1.

On December 2010, Republic Services who owns both landfills reported that they detected a smoldering event, i.e. a landfill fire, beneath the ground. This changed everything with regard to the initial design for cleanup of the radioactive site and the sanitary landfill, causing technical people to go back to the drawing board and design a Supplemental Feasibility Study. This study and the eventual decision on how to clean up OU1 is not expected for another two years.

The reason for changing the cleanup plan is because of the fire in the adjacent landfill. This fire is uncontrolled and is releasing chemicals and odors into the downwind community. Although the Attorney General continues to file Notices of Violation, no one is doing anything for the people. In fact, it is my understanding that the ambient air at the site will never be in compliance with the law as long as the fire continues.

This is why families living downwind of the burning landfill must be relocated. You cannot expect people to live in a community with health risks at levels above health standards every day, for years.

Since it has been found that the fire has created a situation requiring a change to the **cleanup** plans before expected, then you must also address the people who live in the community being harmed daily as a result of the fire. The health of innocent people are as important if not more important than cleaning up the waste.

Lastly, in reviewing a U.S.EPA document dated May 1, 1997 written by Shannon Flanagan, the determination for qualifying for permanent relocation includes:

- Conducting cleanup, i.e. the homes needed to be destroyed in order to properly implement cleanup; or

Gina McCarthy
June 3, 2015
Page Three of Three

- Where there were health threats that could not otherwise be addressed in a timely manner.

There clearly is no possibility of addressing the community health risks, in the adjacent community to the Superfund site, in a timely manner given:

1. The fire is not controlled and not projected to be control in the near future.
2. The emissions from the fire do not meet, and cannot meet into the future, regulatory limits because it is impossible, as determined by the Department of Natural Resources memo, for the flares to adequately reduce sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions to meet the regulatory limit.
3. The community already has a higher than expected rate of childhood cancers and other diseases resulting in a population that is very sensitive to chemical exposures.

We need to meet with you in order to further discuss the possibility of relocating those families that are affected by the fire so that we can get them out of harms way. Is there a time that is convenient for you to meet with our group so we can discuss this issue and any possible solutions?

Thank you in advance for considering our meeting request. We look forward to beginning a dialogue about these important concerns in the near future.

We can be reached by calling Dawn Chapman at Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy or Karen Nickel at Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy or by email at westlakemoms@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Dawn Chapman & Karen Nickel
Just Moms STL

Sincerely,

Just Moms STL